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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USOSCE 000346

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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/SCE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/05/2017  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KV](#) [YI](#) [PGOV](#) [SR](#) [OSCE](#) [UNMIK](#)  
SUBJECT: DAS DICARLO DISCUSSES KOSOVO ISSUES WITH OSCE  
SECRETARY GENERAL DE BRICHAMBAUT

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REF: STATE 124020

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Classified By: USOSCE DCM Kyle Scott for Reasons 1.4 (b,d)

11. (C) Summary: In an August 29 meeting in Vienna, EUR/SCE DAS Rosemary diCarlo and OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut agreed that it would be difficult to deter Kosovo from making a unilateral declaration of independence if the Troika-led negotiations do not bear fruit. In the event of a UDI, they discussed possible steps should Russia deliver on its threat to block the renewal of the mandate of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMiK) at the end of this year. Under such a scenario, de Brichambaut suggested that UN would be the only logical entity to take on the Mission's institution-building and monitoring functions and that many of OMiK's well-trained personnel could wind up transferring directly to UNMiK. With respect to parliamentary and municipal elections expected in November, de Brichambaut said that OMiK would be "squeezed" for time in helping Kosovo authorities prepare, but that the Mission could deliver. Noting the destabilizing effect developments in Kosovo could have on neighboring Macedonia, de Brichambaut appealed to diCarlo for U.S. support in keeping the OSCE's field office in Tetovo open for another year. End Summary.

Effect of Status Negotiations on OSCE  
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12. (C) DAS diCarlo took advantage of her presence in Vienna a day before the August 30 Troika-led negotiations on Kosovo's future status (ref) to touch base with SecGen Marc Perrin de Brichambaut and to signal the USG's desire that the OSCE continue to play a significant role in post-status Kosovo as part of a strong international presence. The SecGen noted that an OSCE role in post-status Kosovo largely depends on how the current negotiation process plays out ) he is not optimistic that Belgrade and Pristina will agree to a compromise and believes that the chances are growing that Kosovo will unilaterally declare independence. Russia, he added, has signaled that it is prepared to block the renewal of OMiK's mandate for 2008 in the event of a UDI. Acknowledging this possibility, diCarlo responded that it would be very hard at this point to tell Kosovo authorities that independence is not an option after Europe, the United States and the UN Secretary General supported Ahtisaari's status proposal.

13. (C) While everyone hopes that an agreement will emerge from the current Troika-led round of negotiations, de Brichambaut said that OSCE is forging ahead with contingency planning for a possible UDI. The organization's first priority is planning for the safety of its personnel, particularly those working in Mitrovica and north of the Ibar river, in the event that a UDI precipitates violence. At the same time, the OSCE Secretariat is actively considering how the organization should go about shutting down its field mission in Kosovo if a UDI declaration results in a Russian or Serbian refusal to renew OMIK's mandate at the end of this year. Given likely internal EU division over a UDI, De Brichambaut's view is that the UN is the only logical entity to take on the OSCE's institution-building and monitoring responsibilities. Rather than closing shop as envisioned in Ahtisaari's proposal, UNMIK would have to build back up. UNMIK, he suggested, could simply take on many of OMIK's existing personnel, including its more than 600 well-qualified and seasoned local employees, who now constitute the heart of the field mission. Such a development could be problematic, diCarlo observed, given the poor regard most Kosovans have for UNMIK and their expectation that the UN would get smaller and go away rather than expand. (Comment: diCarlo noted after the meeting that this issue could perhaps be finessed by giving any follow-on to the OSCE field mission a new name but not a continuation of UNMIK.)

#### November Parliamentary and Municipal Elections

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14. (C) Turning to the subject of long-overdue parliamentary and municipal elections, diCarlo acknowledged that there were strong arguments in favor of postponing them further until after negotiations have ended, but that the USG ultimately had come down in favor of scheduling them for this fall as a means of preventing Kosovo's Unity Team from splintering. Di Brichambaut said that he expected UN SRSG Ruecker to officially call for the elections within the week. The field

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mission is already planning for elections with the expectation the polls will be called for late November and believes preparations can be made in time; still, the Mission would have preferred to have had four full months to help the Kosovo authorities get ready. DiCarlo agreed with de Brichambaut prediction that, once officially underway, the election campaign will fully pre-occupy Kosovo's government and political parties, stalling any further reform progress. (UNMIK has now set November 17 for municipal and parliamentary elections).

#### Keeping the OSCE's field office in Tetovo open?

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15. (C) In closing, de Brichambaut expressed his concern that possible violence in Kosovo related to a final status decision or to UDI could spillover and unbalance other parts of the western Balkans, particularly Macedonia, which he sees as especially fragile under current circumstances. In this respect, he asked the U.S. to re-consider our call to close next year the OSCE's field office in Tetovo (part of the OSCE's Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje).

16. (U) This cable has been cleared by DAS diCarlo.  
FINLEY